

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-07 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 PA-02 /109 W
-----053288 180624Z /11

O R 180559Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 982
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 6003

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, ENGR, IN, US
SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

REF: NEW DELHI 5973; STATE 97942

1. FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE DAE ANNUAL
REPORT, 1977-78 REGARDING REPROCESSING, SPENT FUEL
MANAGEMENT, AND INDO-US NUCLEAR COOPERATION. TEXT OF REPORT
BEING POUCHED TO NEA/INS.

2. IN THE SECTION ON "POWER PROGRAM; R AND D", THE SUBSECTION
ON "FUEL REPROCESSING PLANTS" READS: "IN THE PLUTONIUM PLANT
AT TROMBAY, CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CIVIL STRUCTURES
WAS SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED. FABRICATION OF PROCESS
EQUIPMENT, PROCUREMENT AND TESTING OF VARIOUS ITEMS AND
PREPARATIONS TO START THE INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT AND
PIPING IN THE PROCESS CELLS IN WHICH DECONTAMINATION
WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED, ARE IN PROGRESS.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONING RUN AT THE FUEL REPROCESSING
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PLANT AT TARAPUR WAS COMPLETED AND AN INITIAL CAMPAIGN
WITH SPENT FUEL IS BEING REPROCESSED.

PRELIMINARY FLOWSHEETS AND LAYOUTS WERE WORKED OUT
FOR THE FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT AT KALPAKKAM. PREPARATION
OF THE PROJECT REPORT IS IN PROGRESS.

THE ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PERTAINING TO IMPORTANT AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF FUEL REPROCESSING ARE BEING CONTINUED. WORK ON COMPUTER-AIDED DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM IS IN PROGRESS."

3. IN THE SECTION ON "RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT", THE SUBSECTION ON "OPERATION OF EXISTING PLANTS" READS: "WASTE MANAGEMENT AT TARAPUR: THE LIQUID WASTE TREATMENT PLANT SERVING THE FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT AT TARAPUR RECEIVED, DURING THE YEAR, A TOTAL VOLUME OF 500 M3 OF AVERAGE ACTIVITY LIQUID. AFTER TREATMENT, 99.75 PERCENT OF ACTIVITY WAS RETAINED AS SLUDGE FOR CONDITIONING AND STORAGE.

ABOUT 30,000 M3 OF LIQUID EFFLUENTS WERE RECEIVED FROM TAPS FOR TREATMENT DURING THE YEAR. THESE WASTES WERE TRATED WITH GOOD DECONTAMINATION FACTORS AND SENT FOR DISPOSAL.

A TOTAL VOLUME OF 470 M3 OF RADIOACTIVE SOLID WASTES WAS RECEIVED FOR TREATMENT, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL; WASTES RECEIVED INCLUDED FUEL CLADDING FROM FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT AND HIGHLY ACTIVE COMPONENTS FROM APS FUEL STORAGE POOL.

REGULAR SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES WERE CARRIED OUT AND THE RESULTS CONFIRM UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ADEQUACY AND SAFETY OF WASTE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS AT TARAPUR SITE."

4. IN THE SECTION ON "ATOMIC POWER AUTHORITY; TAPS", THE SECTION ON "SPENT FUEL SPACE" READS: "DAE'S INABILITY TO UNDERTAKE REPROCESSING OF TAPS SPENT FUEL AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED OWING TO THE CURRENT US POSITION ON THE SUBJECT HAS RESULTED IN THE STATION'S SPENT POOLS GETTING FILLED BEYOND THEIR DESIGNED CAPACITY. SOME SPENT FUEL RACKS HAVE BEEN FABRICATED IN INDIA ENABING TAPS TO UNDERTAKE THE REFUELLING OUTAGES OF 1977-78. EFFORTS ARE ONNTO EVOLVE EESIGNS FOR HIGH DENSITY RACKS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ONES AND THEREBY EXTEND THE CAPACITY OF THE AVAILABLE SPACE. AN AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED WIH THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY UNDER WHICH IT HAS UNDERTAKEN A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE PURPOSE ON A 'NO COST' BASIS."

5. IN THE "GENERAL SURVEY", THE FOLLOWING APPEARS FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF THE OPERATION OF TAPS: "OWING TO CHANGES IN THE NUCLEAR POLICY OF THE US, FUEL SUPPLIES ARE BECOMING MORE STRINGENT, AND FUTURE SUPPLIES ARE NOT ASSURED NOTWITHSTANDING THE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

OF THAT COUNTRY. A DIALOGUE IS CONTINUING WITH THE US
GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER."

6. IN THE LIST OF ATOMIC ENERGY ESTABLISHMENTS IN
INDIA, PREFRE IS DESCRIBED, MISLEADINGLY, AS: "THE POWER
REACTOR FUEL REPROCESSING PLANT, TARAPUR,HAS BEEN BUILT
BY THE BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER. THIS PLANT
PROCESSES THE IRRADIATED FUEL FROM THE TARAPUR AND
RAJASTHAN ATOMIC POWER STATIONS." THIS SAME
DESCRIPTION APPEARED IN THE DAE 1976-77 ANNUAL REPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, ANNUAL REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE06003
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0451
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780445/aaaablzk.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 428f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 5973, 78 STATE 97942
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2933647
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
TAGS: MNUC, ENRG, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/428f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014